AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A compliant link according to claim [[4]] 9 in which the resilient means provides compliance for loads applied to the link in opposite directions.

3. (Currently Amended) A compliant link according to claim [[4]] 9 in which relative movement between the members is limited so that the compliant link acts as a solid link when an axial load above a second predetermined value is applied to one of the members.

4. (Currently Amended) A compliant link according to claim 9, ~~comprising first and second members distanced from each other in an operating position, said member being interconnected by resilient means, the resilient means being preloaded to prevent relative movement between the members when an axial load below a first predetermined value is applied to one of the members,~~ wherein the first and second members are interconnected by means of a connecting rod, the connecting rod being moveable relative to both the first and second members, first resilient means acting between the first member and the connecting rod to oppose contraction of the link and second resilient means acting between the second member and the connecting rod to oppose extension to the link~~, wherein the rod extends through one of the resilient means, a stop at the end of~~

~~the rod biases said one of the resilient means against the member that receives said one of the resilient means~~.

5. (Previously Presented) A compliant link according to claim 4 in which the first resilient means acts between the first member and the connecting rod biasing the connecting rod towards the second member and into abutment with a stop formation on the first member and the second resilient means acts between the second member and the connecting rod biasing the connecting rod away from the first member and into engagement with a stop formation on the second member.

6. (Currently Amended) A gear engagement mechanism comprising a shift actuator coupled to a shift rail, a compliant link as claimed in claim [[4]] 9 being included between the shift actuator and shift rail.

7. (Original) A gear engagement mechanism according to claim 6 in which the shift actuator is connected directly to the shift rail by the compliant link.

8. (Original) A gear engagement mechanism according to claim 6 in which the shift actuator is connected to a selector member by the compliant link, the selector member being arranged to selectively engage the shift rail which is member of a plurality of shift rails.

9. (Newly Added) A compliant link comprising first and second members, said members being interconnected by resilient means, the resilient means being preloaded to prevent relative movement between the members when an axial load below a first predetermined value is applied to one of the members, wherein both the first and second members are prestressed in both directions of operation of the compliant link.